THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for providing and using a cutting tool to cut a plurality of first workpieces, with each first workpiece being wood or including a substantial amount of wood, to produce a plurality of second workpieces from the first workpieces, the method comprising:

applying via a vacuum procedure a coating to at least a portion of the cutting tool that includes a cutting edge of the cutting tool, the coating including an inner hard layer and an outer friction-reducing layer over the hard layer, whereby a coated cutting tool is formed, and wherein the hard layer is harder than the friction-reducing layer and the friction-reducing layer has a lower coefficient of friction than the hard layer; and

then cutting the first workpieces, which are wood or include a substantial amount of wood, with the cutting edge of the coated cutting tool to produce the second workpieces.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the coating consists essentially of the hard layer lying directly on the cutting tool and the friction-reducing layer lying directly on the hard layer.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising cryogenically treating at least a portion of the coated cutting tool that includes the cutting edge, wherein the cryogenically treating is performed prior to the cutting.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the adhering the hard layer includes adhering titanium aluminum nitride to the cutting tool and the adhering the friction-reducing layer includes adhering tungsten carbide with carbon over the hard layer.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising cryogenically treating at least a portion of the coated cutting tool that includes the cutting edge, wherein the cryogenically treating is performed prior to the cutting.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the cutting the first workpieces with the cutting edge of the coated cutting tool to produce the second workpieces includes cutting the first workpieces serially and in rapid succession.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising cryogenically treating at least a portion of the coated cutting tool that includes the cutting edge, wherein the cryogenically treating is performed prior to the cutting.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein at least the cutting edge of the cutting tool is steel, so that the coating includes coating the steal (steel) cutting edge .

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9. The method of claim 8, further comprising cryogenically treating at least a portion of the coated cutting tool that includes the cutting edge, wherein the cryogenically treating is performed prior to the cutting.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising sharpening the cutting edge of the cutting tool prior to applying the coating to the cutting tool.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising cryogenically treating at least a portion of the coated cutting tool that includes the cutting edge, wherein the cryogenically treating is performed prior to the cutting.

12. A cutting tool formed by performing operations comprising:

applying via a vacuum procedure a coating to at least a portion of a cutting tool that includes a cutting edge of the cutting tool, the coating including an inner hard layer and an outer friction-reducing layer over the hard layer, whereby a coated cutting tool is formed, and wherein the hard layer is harder than the friction-reducing layer and the friction-reducing layer has a lower coefficient of friction than the hard layer; and

then cryogenically treating at least a portion of the coated cutting tool that includes the cutting edge.

13. A cutting tool according to claim 12, with the coating consisting essentially of the hard layer lying directly on the cutting tool and the friction-reducing layer lying directly on the hard layer.

14. A cutting tool according to claim 12, wherein the hard layer includes titanium aluminum nitride and the friction-reducing layer includes tungsten carbide with carbon.

15. A cutting tool according to claim 12, wherein at least the cutting edge of the cutting tool is steel.